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a converter responsive to said decoder, that converts said phonemes to additional FAP information and outputs said additional FAP information combined with said FAP information separated by said decoder, and

a face rendering module responsive to an applied face model signal and to said output developed by said converter.

Please add the following claims:

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2. A method for transmitting signals to apparatus that produces sounds and includes a video synthesizer comprising the steps of:
generating a first signal stream that includes signals for generating said sounds;
generating a second signal stream of commands to said video synthesizer; and
combining said first signal stream with said second signal stream to form a signal stream for said transmitting.
 3. The method of claim 2 where said commands are FAP signals.
 4. The method of claim 3 where said FAP signals includes prosody and timing information.
 5. The method of claim 3 where said FAP signals excludes FAPS that provide viseme information.
 6. The method of claim 2 where said first signal stream contains signals representing sound.
 7. The method of claim 2 where said first signal stream contains signals that encode voice.
 8. The method of claim 2 where said first signal stream contains commands to a sound synthesizer.

9. The method of claim 2 where said first signal stream contains text.

10. The method of claim 2 further including a stream of parameter signals for said video synthesizer.

11. The method of claim 10 where said stream of parameter signals comprises face model information.

12. Apparatus comprising:

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a decoder, responsive to an input signal comprising signals representing audio and embedded video synthesis command signals, that separates the command signals from signals representing audio to develop an audio signal stream and a video synthesis command signals stream,

a converter responsive to said audio signal stream for developing sound, and
a video synthesizer responsive to said video synthesis command signals stream for developing images.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 where said signals representing audio comprise text, and said converter is a speech synthesizer responsive to said text.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 where
said signals representing audio comprise text,
said decoder, following separation of said command signals from said input signal, converts said text to elemental sound element signals and applies said sound element signals to said converter, and
said converter is an audio synthesizer that is adapted to respond to said sound element signals.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 where said converter is a speech synthesizer.

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16. The apparatus of claim 12 where said signals representing audio comprise text, said decoder, following separation of said command signals from said input signal, converts said text to phoneme signals, and said converter is a speech synthesizer responsive to said phoneme signals.
17. The apparatus of claim 16 where said video synthesis command signals are FAPs.
18. The apparatus of claim 17 where said video synthesizer includes an input for receiving synthesis parameters.
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19. The apparatus of claim 18 where said synthesis parameters are face model parameters.
20. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a converter for generating video synthesis command signals from said phoneme signals and applying said video synthesis command signals generated by said converter to said video synthesizer.
21. The apparatus of claim 20 where said converter is interposed between said decoder and said video synthesizer, merging said command signals separated from said input signal with said command signals generated by said converter, to form a single stream of input-signal-related command signals that is applied to said video synthesizer.
22. The apparatus of claim 21 where said converter generates additional command signals interposed between said input-signal-related command signals.
23. The apparatus of claim 20 where said video synthesis command signals are FAPs, and said video synthesis command signals generated by said converter are FAPs.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 where said video synthesis command signals generated by said converter are members of the FAP 1 parameter.

25. The apparatus of claim 23 where said video synthesis command signals generated by said converter are members of the FAP 1 parameter or FAP3-68 parameters, inclusively.

26. The apparatus of claim 12 where said decoder generates additional command signals that interpolate between the separated command signals from said input signal.

27. The apparatus of claims 26 or 22 where each set of said additional command signals that are interposed between a pair of command signals interpolates between said pair of command signals.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 where said video synthesizer generates images at a selected frame rate, and said interpolation generates a command signal for each frame.

29. The apparatus of claim 27 where said interpolation follows a function that is of an order higher than 2.

30. The apparatus of claim 27 where said interpolation follows a function that is of order 4.

31. A method comprising the steps of:
receiving an input signal that comprises signals representing audio and embedded video synthesis command signals;
separating said input signal into an audio signal stream and a video synthesis command signals stream;
converting said audio signal stream to audio, and
synthesizing at least one image from said video synthesis command signals stream.

32. The method of claim 31 where said signals representing audio comprise text, and said step of converting synthesizes speech.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising a step of converting said text into phonemes, and said step of converting synthesizes speech from said phonemes.

34. The method of claim 31 where said video synthesis command signals comprise Facial Animation Parameter signals.

35. The method of claim 33 and including the command signals generated in said step of generating in said step of synthesizing.

36. The method of claim 33 further comprising a step of generating video synthesis command signals from said phonemes and said step of synthesizing is responsive to a combined command signals stream that includes said command signals developed in said step of separating and said command signals generated in said step of generating.

37. The method of claim 36 where said command signals comprise Facial Animation Parameter signals.

38. The method of claim 36 further comprising a step of developing a plurality of additional command signals interposed between command signals of said combined command signals stream.

39. The method of claim 38 where said step of synthesizing generates images at a selected frame rate, and said step of developing develops said additional command signals to provide a command signal for each frame.

40. The method of claim 38 where said step of developing develops a set of said additional command signals between each pair of said command signals of said combined command signals stream, and said set of additional command signals interpolated between said pair of said command signals of said combined command signals stream.

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41. The method of claim 40 where said interpolation is in accord with a function of order greater than 2.

42. The method of claim 40 where said interpolation is in accord with a function of order 4.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is presented to correct minor typographical errors, to clarify a number of points, and to add 41 claims.

Respectfully,
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